

SB 618 -- SUICIDE PREVENTION

This bill requires the Director of the Department of Mental Health, in partnership with the Department of Health and Senior Services, to design and develop a state suicide prevention plan in collaboration with the departments of Social Services, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, and Corrections and with community-based agencies. The plan must:

- (1) Promote the use of employee assistance and workplace programs to support employees experiencing depression or other psychiatric illnesses;
- (2) Promote the use of student assistance and educational programs to support students with depression, other psychiatric illnesses, and substance abuse disorders;
- (3) Provide training and technical assistance to local public health and other community-based professionals on the best practices to prevent suicides;
- (4) Coordinate federal, state, and local agencies in order to collect and analyze data on suicides and suicidal behaviors in Missouri and annually issue a public report;
- (5) Establish a toll-free suicide prevention hotline; and
- (6) Recommend statutory changes and implementation and funding requirements to the General Assembly by December 31, 2004.